



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

California Department of Education

Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

January 2007

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

STAR Program Apportionment

At the January 10, 2007, State Board of Education (SBE) meeting, the SBE approved the following apportionment amounts for STAR testing for the 2006–07 school year:

- \$0.38 for completing demographic information for each student not tested with the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and the California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey); the Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS); or the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA).
- \$2.52 per student for completing demographic information and administering the CST–CAT/6 Survey.
- \$5.00 per student for completing demographic information and administering the CAPA.
- \$2.52 per student for completing demographic information and administering the STS.
- \$2.44 per student for completing demographic information and administering the designated primary language test, Aprenda 3.

The apportionment rates for administering the CST–CAT/6 Survey, CAPA, and Aprenda 3 are unchanged from 2005–06.

For additional information on the STAR Program apportionment, please refer to the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/Jan07item2.doc>.

Pre-Test Workshop Training for 2007 Test Administration

Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Harcourt Assessment, Inc. (Harcourt) will be conducting pretest workshops for districts and county STAR coordinators during January and February throughout California. The purpose of the workshops is to prepare STAR coordinators to train all STAR test site (school) coordinators.

For additional information on the STAR Pre-Test Workshops, contact the Standardized Testing and Reporting Unit, Standards and Assessment Division, at (916) 445-8765 or by e-mail at star@cde.ca.gov.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

CAHSEE Materials

In 2006, AB 1802 authorized the California Department of Education (CDE) to allocate \$5,500,000 to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the purchase of SBE-approved, individualized, intervention materials for students who have not passed the CAHSEE. This is a one-time allocation and the CDE does not anticipate future allocations for this specific purpose at this time. In November 2006, the CDE released an Invitation to Submit Intervention Materials for the CAHSEE. The

CDE will evaluate materials received in response to this invitation and provide recommendations to the SBE at its March meeting regarding which CAHSEE intervention materials to approve. Once the SBE approves a list of intervention materials, the CDE will distribute the allocation to LEAs for use in purchasing the SBE-approved materials.

For additional information on this funding, please refer to the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr06/documents/nov06item8.doc>.

Exemption for Students with Disabilities

If an LEA denies a student with disabilities a diploma by determining that the student does not meet the criteria for the exemption, the LEA is required to submit documentation of its decision to the SBE within 15 days of denial.

The SBE is required to review any LEA's decision to deny a diploma to a student with disabilities no later than its next regularly scheduled meeting occurring at least 30 days after receiving the documentation. If the SBE finds that the student does meet the criteria, it may direct the LEA to issue that student a high school diploma.

The CDE and the SBE staffs met and developed a process by which this documentation can be reviewed. The CDE developed a form that is designed to assist LEAs to determine and document students' eligibility for this CAHSEE exemption, and it can be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/jan07item13.doc>. On April 20, 2006, this form and instructions were sent to all LEAs that administer the CAHSEE. The form's use is recommended, but is not mandatory. The CDE has placed instructions to LEAs on the CDE's Web site as well as Questions and Answers regarding this exemption.

At its January 10, 2007, meeting, the SBE heard 25 cases submitted by one LEA. The SBE approved the CDE recommendation to affirm the LEA decisions not to grant diplomas in all 25 cases.

If you have any questions regarding the CAHSEE program, please contact the High School Exit Exam Office, Standards and Assessment Division, at (916) 445-9449 or by e-mail at cahsee@cde.ca.gov.

California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

2006–07 Performance Level Cut Scores

The new performance level cut scores and common scale for the CELDT took effect July 1, 2006. The common scale will allow districts and the state to track growth across adjacent grade spans at the scale score level.

During October and November, CTB/McGraw-Hill (CTB), the CELDT test contractor, conducted ten post-test workshops for district personnel. The workshops briefed participants on the changes to the CELDT reporting scale and cut scores as well as procedures to follow in reviewing and correcting data. At each meeting, numerous questions were raised by participants regarding the changes to the CELDT reporting scale and cut scores, as well as more general questions about test administration and a variety of policy issues. Questions asked at the meetings will be used to develop a set of "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the CELDT" to assist districts in communicating changes to the test as well as aid in test administration.

The new performance levels may be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/cutpoints.asp>. If you have any questions about the CELDT program, please contact the CELDT/CHSPE/GED/PFT Office, Standards and Assessment Division, at (916) 445-0784 or by e-mail at celdt@cde.ca.gov.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) Peer Review

The CDE contracted with Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) to conduct the independent, alignment study of the CSTs and CAPA as well as develop performance level descriptors for the CSTs and CAHSEE. California teachers and curriculum specialists participated in workshops in late November and early December to conduct this work. At its November 8, 2006, meeting, the SBE approved policy definitions to help guide the development of the performance level descriptors. The performance level descriptors, scheduled to be submitted to the SBE in March 2007, for approval, will be a useful tool in communicating CST and CAHSEE results to teachers, parents, and students. In addition, the CDE will present findings of the alignment study once available.

For additional information on the peer review and the policy definitions, please refer to the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/jan07item07.doc>.

Academic Performance Index (API)

2006 Base API

At the January 10, 2007, SBE meeting, the SBE voted in favor of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's (SSPI) recommendations for calculating the 2006 Base API. There were three issues that were addressed: Grade Eight Science Test Weights, Assignment of 200 Policy, and Grade Ten Science Test Weights.

The SSPI concurred with the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) recommendation on the first issue regarding Grade Eight Science Test Weights to add the test to the API with a weight of 0.20. On the second issue, the SSPI recommended to continue assignment of 200 policy with lower weights. And on the third issue, the SSPI recommended to include

the CST in Life Science with minimal weight of 0.10 and increase the CST Science weight to 0.22 and the CST History weight to 0.23. The SSPI concurred with the PSAA Advisory Committee that a higher test weight should be given to the more challenging end-of-course CSTs in science, grades nine through eleven, than to the CST in life science, grade ten. The SSPI, therefore, recommended a minimal test weight for the CST in life science, grade ten, of 0.10.

For additional information on the 2006 Base API calculations, please refer to the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/jan07item07.doc>.

More information...

For more information about any of the mentioned SBE items, access the SBE agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/>.